NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

April 6, 2011

11:04 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ROBERT J. DUFFY, President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

THE PRESIDENT: The Senate will come to order.

Please rise and repeat with me the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the assemblage recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome to West Point Day in the State Senate.

The invocation today is to be given by Father Edson J. Wood, who is the brigade chaplain at West Point. Father?

CHAPLAIN WOOD: May we pray.

Almighty God, we pray You guide this great state and those who lead it. Give Your spirit of wisdom to all whom we entrust with authority over us. In time of our prosperity, temper our self-confidence with thankfulness. And in the day of trouble, let our trust in You never fail.

Look, too, with Your generous bounty on West Point, which is to be honored here today. Let her remember always that her mission of duty, honor, country is not a way of looking only at certain things, it is a

certain way of looking at everything.

And finally, O God, protect our uniformed brothers and sisters and their families all over this troubled world of ours. Guide them, protect them, keep them safe, and reward them bounteously for their greatness of soul.

Our prayer this day comes from hearts that are open to You, Eternal God. And we ask these things in Your name, which is mighty.

Amen.

THE PRESIDENT: Next we'll have the reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, April 5th, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Monday, April 4th, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

THE PRESIDENT: Without objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

Presentation of petitions.

Any messages from the Assembly?

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: On page 18, Senator Maziarz moves to discharge, from the Committee on Local Government, Assembly Bill Number 2411 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill Number 205, Third Reading Calendar 233.

THE PRESIDENT: Substitution ordered.

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, at this time there's a privileged resolution at the desk by Senator Larkin. I ask that we please read it in its entirety. And before we move for its adoption, I would ask that you call on Senator Larkin.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

The Secretary will read the resolution in its entirety.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative resolution by Senator Larkin, memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 6, 2011, as West Point Day in the State of New York.

"WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point and to call upon Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 6, 2011, as West Point Day in the State of New York; and

"WHEREAS, By an act of Congress on March 16, 1802, the United States Military Academy was established within the borders of New York State, on the banks of the Hudson River; and

"WHEREAS, The Academy and its graduates are an integral part of the proud history of this state and nation; and

"WHEREAS, The leadership and sacrifices of the members of the Long Gray

Line have helped this country withstand countless threats to our cherished democratic way of life; and

"WHEREAS, The alumni have excelled not only on the battlefield but in many fields of endeavor; and

"WHEREAS, The Academy continues to provide our country with able and dedicated future leaders; and

"WHEREAS, Its scenic campus is a mecca each year for thousands of visitors from across our state, continent, and other countries; and

"WHEREAS, The United States Military Academy is in the forefront of our state's outstanding institutions of higher learning; and

"WHEREAS, 59 years ago, the late James T. McNamara, then a member of the New York State Assembly, and a member of the Academy's class of 1939, was the author of the State Legislature's first 'West Point Day' Resolution; and

"WHEREAS, For decades, our nation has enjoyed the legacy of freedom, and the

United States Military Academy at West Point has played a vitally significant role in the maintenance of peace and freedom; and

"WHEREAS, The members of this Legislative Body are proud to commemorate this event marking April 6, 2011, as West Point Day in New York State; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point and to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 6, 2011, as West Point Day in the State of New York; and be it further

"RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York."

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Senator Larkin.

SENATOR LARKIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

What an honor and distinct privilege to represent West Point. And first of all, on behalf of all of my colleagues, I'd

like to offer a special welcome to General Huntoon and his wife, Margaret. Please stand, and I'd like everybody to see you wonderful people.

(Applause.)

SENATOR LARKIN: Before my remarks, I'd like to introduce you to this group of outstanding members, outstanding individuals and future leaders of our armed forces and our government.

First, Captain Marc Beaudoin is from the great State of Maine. Please stand up as I call you, and then you can sit down. Thank you very much, First Captain.

Cadet Patrick Arlantico, from Kingston, my district. Good to see you.

Cadet Ross Chesaniuk, Senator Sta -- Stati -- Stavisky's -- you know, those Irish names are hard to pronounce.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR LARKIN: Thank you.

Cadet Gerard Connolly, from Senator Addabbo's.

Cadet Jeff Jang, Senator Skelos's district. Thank you.

Cadet Andrea Lloyd, from New Hampton, Orange County. Good to see you.

Cadet Cidny Menjivar, from Senator Joe Addabbo.

Cadet Andy Uhorchak, from Cornwall, New York. Don't sit down, Andy.

Andy is the third. His oldest brother has already had a tour. His sister is sitting in my old seat in Heidelberg -- when I was a youngster, Gene. Thank you, Andy. The third in his family, and he'll be there next year in the same fighting capacity as his brother and sister have.

Cadet Sally Chang; Senator Stavisky.

Cadet Madelyne Serrano, Senator Diaz.

Cadet Pat Stingley, Senator McDonald.

Cadet Shaliya Dehipawala. Was I close?

CADET DEHIPAWALA: No, sir.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR LARKIN: Where's Tony Avella? That's your fault, Tony.

Cadet Corey Hill; Mike Nozzolio.

Cadet Enoch No; David Carlucci's.

Cadet Mark Hoempler; Senator Carlucci.

Cadet Colin Hennessy, Senator Skelos' office.

Ladies and gentlemen, the future of America.

(Standing ovation.)

SENATOR LARKIN: You know, I know my colleagues have a habit of calling me the Colonel, you know. It's not out of disrespect. Because if it was, you know what I would do.

But this is a great day. For we, the legislators from the State of New York, to invite you here to let you know that we respect you.

The Class of 2011 that will graduate in May will have orders. This fall they'll be in harm's way, 90 percent of them. But we know that we can depend on you. Four years ago, your class, you stood there in our day and you said "I do and I will."

This country depends on you.

You're the backbone of our country. You are what every person that really cares about America looks at you and says "Thank you."

And we also thank your mothers and fathers for giving you the will and the desire and the opportunity to go to a great institution.

Look around, my colleagues, and think of those who went before these cadets. MacArthur, Eisenhower -- bring it up-to-date. Class of '56, Desert Storm's. Look at today, Class of '74, General Petraeus, from my town of Cornwall.

This is what it's all about. These are young men and women who make a difference every day. The freshman class that are coming in in June, they won't be going to college and checking their gear in and say, "Let's go out and have a few beers Friday night," because that's not what the academy is all about.

The Long Gray Line: Duty, honor and country. How fortunate we are, not just as a state but as a nation. There will be a thousand graduates in May. I think it's a day that we all should be proud of. Because when

those white hats are thrown in the air, it signifies that we've moved one step forward to your maturity and your leadership.

Check all of the cadets that are here today. They didn't sit around and think of what they could do and goof off. They all had activities. They had all spirits.

Let me just tell you about 600 of them. Last year we had the Special Olympics. General Huntoon says we'll do it again this year. Six hundred cadets from all grades, all classes, helped with our Special Olympics. And if you'd see the cadets, men and women, handle those special individuals with their care and their respect, and they're willing to help them -- that's what this is all about at West Point. This is about duty, honor and country. It's about leadership.

I had the privilege of serving for 23 years. And as I told General Huntoon and a couple of others, in 23 years I only had one at West Point that we didn't get along. But the funniest thing about it was a couple of my friends said, "What class?" I said 1950. They said, "Oh, Cloyce B." Everybody was in

unison. Because they know who's the ones they can count on.

We are indeed proud of you. We are thankful for what you have done. As you march forward to accept the new assignment, the Class of 2011, just think, right here we have a distinguished graduate of the Class of 1961. Please stand. Neil [sic] Breslin, the county executive. After a distinguished career, he's now the county executive.

That's his brother next to him. He has to advise his brother.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR LARKIN: But just think about it. You've got -- don't worry about the media. If you recall that General Petraeus was just back here giving a briefing to the Senate, and somebody asked him a question about the leader's children. And General Petraeus clearly just said, "Stephen Petraeus, First Lieutenant, A Company, 1st Battalion, 173rd Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, just returned home from 15 months in Afghanistan."

The meeting by the Senate Armed

Services Committee ceased right there, because Senator Levin from Michigan said, "I don't think there are any other questions."

You have nothing to be ashamed of. You stand proud, as everybody in this chamber is proud of you. May God bless you all.

(Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Would you recognize Senator Breslin, please.

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Breslin.

SENATOR BRESLIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

And welcome, West Point cadets. On behalf of the Democratic conference, we're humbled to have you here.

We'd like to think that we have something in common with you, that it's our role to kind of act in a democratic way, and it's your role to preserve that democratic way. And shortly you will be in harm's way. And you'll be following a tradition that goes back to Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who was told by

Washington to protect West Point. And on to, as Senator Larkin said, on to some of the greatest leaders this world has ever known -- Eisenhower, Pershing, MacArthur, Grant, and on and on and on.

And I'd like to highlight a couple of others that probably are less well known. Henry O. Flipper, who was the first African-American graduate in 1877. In 1915, Luis Estevez became the first Hispanic to graduate from West Point. And in 1980, Project Athena, where 119 extraordinary women became the first women cadets, with Andrea Hollen becoming the first to graduate. And on and on and on.

And you are a part of duty, honor, country. And you are the ones that are there to preserve the greatest experiment in our country, the experiment of democracy that continues to this day.

And again, as I said, we are humbled to have you here. And I also take this special day once a year to not make fun of a brother with my same surname, to honor him on this day. In fact, Senator Larkin has

already given him the highest honor imaginable --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRESLIN: -- by referring to him as Neil.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRESLIN: But indeed, I say this once a year, that my older brother is indeed my idol. A 1961 graduate of West Point, who, as I've told you earlier, played basketball, football and baseball at West Point and went on to Jump School, Ranger School, Jungle Warfare School, Air Transportation School, Jump Master School, and as a 27-year-old in Vietnam made major, reporting to General Creighton Abrams, and went on to teach, at the College of the Americas, counterinsurgency.

And this partially prepared him to become a county executive --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRESLIN: -- and to deal with the mandates that are sent down by a group -- not this group and this conference; there were others before us, others before us

and others in other conferences.

But this indeed is wonderful for all of us. You are in our prayers as you prepare for graduation and prepare to defend us and allow us to continue to debate here, but to debate here in a very civil way.

We do things in a way that we do not hear about or see in any other country in this world. We do things by arguing back and forth to come up with compromises that better serve democracy.

So my hat is off to you on this wonderful day, and my hat is also off to my brother and all of those who have gone before you.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Skelos.

SENATOR SKELOS: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Our Republican conference and the entire chamber welcomes you to Albany once again there year.

Colonel Larkin, I want to start off

by thanking you. This is a special day for you, but it's also a special day for every single member of the Senate as we pay tribute and salute those who are going through the learning process but in a short time will be protecting our democracy for this country.

So, Colonel, once again -- from Republicans, Democrats, everybody in this chamber, thank you very much.

(Applause.)

SENATOR SKELOS: To the West Point Superintendent, Lieutenant General David Huntoon and Mrs. Huntoon, we welcome you.

And to the Superintendent, the lives of these young people are in your hands to educate them well, as you do. And we thank you for preparing the next group of graduates from West Point. We salute you, sir.

Aide-de-Camp Major Michael McDermott, I understand that Senator Lee Zeldin served with you in Iraq, and we welcome you to this great chamber. Thank you for your service.

The General is accompanied by his staff and a group of cadets led by First

Captain Cadet Marc Beaudoin.

And I also want to extend a special welcome to two cadets from the 9th Senate District: Jeffrey Jang, from Woodmere, and Colin Hennessy, of Lynbrook. Again, we welcome you to the chamber, as we do all of your fellow cadets.

It is an honor and a privilege to stand here as the Majority Leader and a member of this chamber to welcome you and to thank you. West Point, strong as the rock upon which it is built and as unyielding as the river that flows by its walls.

The United States Military Academy at West Point is one of the most cherished institutions in our nation and the most cherished institution in the State of New York, a place where the best and the bravest men and women answer the call to serve their country.

Each of you has committed yourself to the values of duty, honor and country. We all owe that debt of gratitude to you. The road you have chosen isn't an easy one. Thousands of your brothers and sisters have

lost their lives or been wounded during the current conflicts in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and now Libya.

Despite the obvious and inherent risks, you continue to serve your country with the same strength and desire you have exhibited throughout every aspect of your lives. The training and instruction you are receiving at West Point will undoubtedly prepare you to meet and exceed the tough challenges that lie ahead.

We are extremely proud of the work you do. Your bravery and heroism in these difficult times are an inspiration to us and to all Americans. You represent the very best our country has to offer, and we are honored and privileged to have you here today.

And as an indication -- you know, when I came over to speak to you, everybody was very serious. But when I mentioned we have lunch at 1:00 o'clock, we got a lot of smiles.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR SKELOS: So we invite you back -- I believe you're going to the Assembly

to be greeted there, as you should. And then we welcome you back, all the members, people that are here, we welcome you back to our conference room so that you can have a great lunch and do a comparison between the lunch we're going to serve you and the food that you get at West Point.

We're very proud of you, we love you, and we hope and we pray that God protects each and every one of you.

(Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Next, Senator Carlucci.

SENATOR CARLUCCI: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I want to thank the previous speakers, particularly Senator Larkin for sponsoring this resolution.

It's an absolute honor today to welcome you to the Senate chamber. And on behalf of the people that I represent in Rockland and Orange County, we just want to say thank you for your commitment towards excellence, your sacrifice that you've put

forth to serve our communities, our state, our nation.

Basically, I just want to say thank you and I know that our state and our nation is in good hands with your leadership now and your future leadership. I hope that one day you will run for office and you'll be able to lead this state to prosperity.

With that, I also want to say that I'm particularly proud of Enoch No and Mark Hoempler, who are both graduates of Suffern High School, a great high school in Rockland County.

And with that, thank you. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to our community. God bless you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Addabbo.

SENATOR ADDABBO: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Good morning.

First let me thank Senator Larkin not only for this resolution and his work during West Point Day, but also for his service to our country. Senator Larkin, thank

you very much for your dedication to our country.

And I believe it's the right thing to do to take a moment from our legislative work and acknowledge the cadets who are here and obviously thank them for their commitment and dedication, and congratulate them on being part of the over 200-year-old-history at West Point.

Over the past 30 years, West Point has become more diverse. And I want to say welcome to two of my constituents, who I'm extremely proud of, Cadet Cidny Menjivar, and Cadet Gerard Connolly, whose family I've known for many years, and to all the cadets.

You know, please know that the residents of the 15th Senatorial District and the residents across this great state and country are proud of the path you have chosen. And we are thankful that you are here today.

And we also should be reminded and mindful that there are many of the West Point family who are not here today, who are serving us and protecting our freedoms around the world in Afghanistan and Iraq and all points

of this world. We are mindful of their, again, service to our country. We thank them as well. Our prayers are with them for their safety, as our prayers will be with you as well.

So thank you again for being here on West Point Day.

Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Zeldin.

SENATOR ZELDIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

First I want to thank Colonel Larkin for sponsoring this resolution and for your service, a very proud Korean War veteran who, whenever he has an opportunity to pay homage to our future veterans, our current veterans, and our past veterans, he never misses an opportunity. And once again, he has demonstrated that leadership again today.

To Michael Breslin, for your service to our country as well. It's nice to have other veterans in this room. I know we have a Marine in Senator Owen Johnson, who

served a couple of years before I did. We have Greg Ball, who served in the Air Force, and others as well around this room and in this chamber.

It is an honor to serve as a New York State Senator. And absolutely no disrespect to all of my colleagues here, nothing will ever beat the honor of serving on active duty in the Army.

To the Superintendent, who's here, I walked in the chamber today and I had no idea that my company commander over in Iraq is your aide, that my battalion commander from Iraq is your XO, Colonel Mike Richardson.

It is -- for me, when I see the American flag, it's so colorful. Maybe it has more color each and every day that I appreciate it more and more. I've heard these stories of those in combat where the American flag has come off of a pole and hit the ground and soldiers have picked that flag up to keep it off the ground, knowing that death was almost certain. Some that have gotten shot and killed, and yet another soldier would go and pick up that flag off the ground, knowing

that death was almost certain.

And again and again, these stories have been inspiration, inspirations to songs that we sing and books that are read. It is that inspiration that made me so proud the first day I put on a uniform. And I looked into the mirror and I saw that Army patch smiling right back at me, and I knew I was getting involved with the right profession.

You are at such a critical point in our nation's history, going to become officers. Your character is the greatest of what New York is all about. And even though we may not be there with you physically each and every day while you are earning your officer ranks at West Point, and we may not be with while you serve over in combat, know that you're leaving a legacy back home and you have a spirit of us with you. Because we are so proud of your service. We are so proud of your sacrifice.

And it is an honor to be in your presence today, and I wish you the best of luck.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you,

Senator.

Senator Ball.

SENATOR BALL: I also want to thank Colonel Larkin for his continued leadership on this.

Colonel Larkin being Army, me being Air Force, we have a pushup contest every morning, and he beats me every single time.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BALL: You know, just so people understand who are not necessarily familiar with West Point -- some of my numbers may be off; I'll fudge them in the up direction. If the Sup wants to tell me if I'm off on the numbers, let me know.

But you're talking about an institution where there are approximately 50,000 pre-candidate questionnaires, they accept 30,000 applications -- and this goes for Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, or the Air Force Academy's sister institution, West Point.

(Hoots, laughter.)

SENATOR BALL: -- 50,000 applications, and with -- Colonel, we'll have

a pushup contest with the Sup in a little bit.

And then, out of that, there are 10,000 applications that are totally qualified. And out of that number, they pick 1200 cadets. In your typical graduating class, 800 graduate.

You know, for those on the other side of the aisle and for all of us who care about social justice, West Point and the service academies of the United States of America represent the greatest beacon of equal opportunity that the United States has ever had, at the highest of levels.

(Applause.)

SENATOR BALL: When you go in and they break you down and they build you back up, they shave your hair off, you all wear the same thing, you don't know who's rich or poor. You don't know who comes from the South or the North, except for those crazy accents. You really are all equal. And it's up to you to prove yourself.

And I've seen kids from the rural places, I've seen kids come from the inner city, of all backgrounds, of all creeds, of

all ethnicities, and do amazing things. Go from a small town and become first captain. And congratulations to the First Captain who's here today. What a great honor for you.

You know, one of my best memories, the best memory of my life, is graduating from the Air Force Academy and being handed my commission or getting my commission from the Vice President of the United States, Dick Cheney.

And in fact I remember -- of course, one thing that Senator Adams and I have in common is liking the press a little bit. And I remember on that day thinking the entire time, how can I get a photo of me on my graduation, because there's always that iconic photo. And he was wearing a big cowboy hat.

So at the very end, as I walked up that stage to see the Vice President, I said, I got it. I'll get him to wear my cadet cap, and I'll wear his cowboy hat, it will be a great thing.

So I went up, I said, "Mr. Vice President, can we exchange hats?" And he was about to do it, and there was a great photo --

and he took off his hat, and I took off my hat, and I went to give it to him, and he stopped me and he said, "Oh, no, this cowboy hat is way too expensive." Which tells you a little bit.

But quite honestly, that was the proudest day. Not because the Vice President was there, but because of my parents and my friends and family who came out to be with me. You look forward to a great day.

One of my lowest moments, it was very early in the morning, I was up in the campaign, it was very busy and I went online because there had been an event that happened in Washington, D.C., and I was watching it on YouTube. And a mom of a soldier who was killed in Iraq, eastern Iraq, came up to speak at the podium, at the mike. And I thought I remembered the last name.

And she went into detail to speak about her son, how at a very young age, 5, 6 years old, he talked about social responsibility and leadership and integrity, intrinsically. And she said the name Derek Argel, and I knew that he was my classmate.

He served in the special forces and was killed on May 31st.

The responsibility that is on your shoulders is great. And as cadets of the finest institution in the United States of America, you have a great responsibility. Because I promise you, if our boardrooms and places like this were full with more cadets, men and women like you, we wouldn't have Enron, we wouldn't have the scandals, and this would continue to be the greatest nation that this world has ever known.

So serve your country, serve your country well, and get into those boardrooms, get into places like this, and let's fight to make this the greatest country and continue to be the greatest country that this world has ever known.

Thank you, men and women.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Stavisky.

SENATOR STAVISKY: Thank you, Mr. President.

And I don't want to stand in the

way of your 1:00 o'clock lunch, so let me be very brief.

First let me thank Colonel Larkin. Each year Senator Larkin comes and speaks. And we appreciate your service as well as the service of other men and women who have served our country both in peace and in war.

And I am particularly proud today to welcome Ross Chesaniuk and Sally Chang, because they live in my district in Fresh Meadows, and they represent the best we have to offer.

I'm very proud of the high school that they attended, Francis Lewis High School, because Francis Lewis has a wonderful ROTC program and they train young people to serve in the military. They start in high school, and they have an outstanding academic program. And the fact that they have been able to send two of their most illustrious graduates to the Military Academy I think says a lot for the New York City public high schools.

So I also congratulate the Breslins. And every year I listen to Senator Breslin -- I think it's the only time of the

year when he says nice things about his brother.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR STAVISKY: But you can see the genuine affection that the two brothers have for each other.

And someday you will look at your siblings and have the same kind of -- even though you may be fighting nowadays, nevertheless this is a relationship that is certainly respected by everybody.

So I welcome you to Albany. And I thank you for offering yourselves to serve our country. The future is ahead of you, and the best years are ahead of you. And let us hope that you help our nation stay at peace.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Colonel, for doing what you do for us.

A special thank you to our special

guests. I know you went through a lot of hard work, and I want to thank you on behalf of a future constituency of yours that I used to be part of.

The hard work is just beginning. Because it was mentioned earlier what you've got to look forward to as a graduation present is war. There's nothing dramatic or romantic or good about war. As former low-ranking Army soldier in Vietnam and Cambodia with the 1st Cavalry Division, I remember my first patrol like it was yesterday. The leader of the patrol was a captain, a young West Point graduate.

Before we started, I was one scared guy. It's a lot different than television and the movies if it's in real life. He came up to the new guys that were replacing people who had already been shot in Cambodia. And that's all we could think about, were we going to be next.

He settled us down, each and every one of us. He looked us right in the eye. He says, "Don't worry, I'm not going to be leaving you. I'll be right with you."

That's what you have to look forward to, the men and women who will be entrusting their lives to you. And I can't think of a better group of people than what I'm looking at right now.

But for anybody here who thinks war is romantic, there's nothing about it. You will be writing letters to dead people's moms and dads. You'll be thinking about that all your life. You'll be watching your friend taken off the battlefield with one less leg or arm. You'll be thinking about what they could have been. And they'll be thinking about you -- if they survive -- in a hospital, thanking you that you were with them in those trying times.

You have a tremendous amount of responsibility. But we pick the best for that. And God bless each and every one of you. And don't forget those average soldiers that die by the thousands that are looking to you as like a relative.

Thank you for what you do.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Adams.

SENATOR ADAMS: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

I just wanted to respond to what be Senator McDonald helped us all to understand. I was not going to speak, but I thought Senator McDonald did something for all of us.

And I thank you, Senator, for what you just stated. Because often we have an attempt to romanticize what these young men are doing. And Senator McDonald just made it real for all of us, how courageous their acts are, these young men and women and, you know, what they are volunteering to do.

And it's one thing to be in the sterilized environment of West Point. But once they leave West Point, the very real image that Senator McDonald shared with us is heroic beyond our imagination.

And for those men and women who are in here who have served and who have put their lives on the line to protect our country, we owe them a debt of gratitude. And these young men and women from West Point who are well aware of the harm that they're putting

themselves in because they truly believe in this country, we owe them a debt of gratitude.

And I think that the heartfelt comments that came from Senator McDonald to really bring us all into the very real-life battlefield of what a soldier goes through every day. And when they come home, many of them may come home with all of their arms and limbs, but a part of them is left in Afghanistan, Iraq, or any other war that they fight on behalf of this country.

So I thank my colleagues who have served. And I thank the young men and women who will continue to serve. And I just wanted to share my thoughts, and I wanted to thank Senator McDonald for his comments, because I thought they were fitting to let us realize that this is not a romantic event, this is an epic proportion that's going to impact the live of these young people, and they are surrendering themselves to the will of this country and they're dedicating their lives to say that they too love America, and that's commendable.

Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator.

Any other Senators wishing to speak?

In closing, I just want to thank Senator Larkin for his work today, and Senator Skelos.

On behalf of all of us and on behalf of Governor Cuomo, I just want to extend our appreciation to General Huntoon, to our cadets. You make your families proud, you make New York State proud, you make our country proud. So thank you for being here today.

And the question is on the resolution. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

THE PRESIDENT: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

THE PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Senator Breslin said we should clap.

(Standing ovation.)

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, at this time I would ask my colleague Senator Breslin's consent and certainly unanimous consent from the chamber to let Superintendent, Lieutenant General Huntoon address this body, please.

THE PRESIDENT: General.

SUPERINTENDENT HUNTOON: Well, thank you very much.

I am humbled and moved by these heartfelt tributes of support not just to these great cadets of the United States Military Academy, but to all the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who serve our country so gallantly today around the world in defense of all our freedoms.

We are absolutely delighted to be here in the Senate of the State of New York. We are home here. And we thank you for so many reasons. We thank you for your own service to the nation, for your service to the citizens of the great State of New York. We thank you for your unwavering support of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

We thank Colonel Bill Larkin, our own great warrior with a distinguished combat record in both the Second World War and Korea, for sponsoring this great day.

And we thank you again so sincerely for your commitment to our soldiers and our families who do serve in harm's way around the world today.

For 209 years, West Point has been a proud resident of the Empire State. From the Palisades to Poughkeepsie, from every neighboring community in the vicinity of West Point, you have always been there to help our soldiers and our civilians and to serve as a second home for our families in the beautiful Hudson River Valley.

The heart of West Point, though, is our outstanding cadets. And I'm so proud to have brought 16 of these great cadets, all from the State of New York, led by their First Captain, Marc Beaudoin, to this great assembly today. And I would tell you that there are 4600 others who remain at West Point who are here in spirit and thank you for your great support of the Academy.

That support that you bring is central to our mission accomplishment, the mission at West Point that speaks about the education, the training, the inspiration of the United States Corps of Cadets so that each commissioned graduate is committed to the values of duty, honor and country, and prepared for a career of professional excellence in service to the nation as an officer in the United States Army.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, this summer we will bring in another 1250 great young men and women from every state in the union, every territory, and from 33 countries around the world. And they will begin their own journey to becoming the leaders of character necessary for the great challenges of the 21st century. Every cadet will spend 47 months at West Point, and all will come to know the beauty and the hospitality and the virtues of this magnificent state.

Now, the vast majority of our staff and faculty, as has been noted this morning, are veterans of the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. And they have shouldered the

great sacrifice and the burden of those conflicts, and they have returned to their New York home. And at West Point they teach another generation about values-based leadership, about the role of the military profession in this democracy, and about selfless service to the nation, always guided by our motto: Duty, honor, country.

We could not be prouder to serve here. New York has a distinguished record of military service that spans all our wars and is the proud home of the Army's 10th Mountain Division and the great 42nd Infantry Division. This state has produced thousands and thousands of veterans in all the services. And I know that several of you have served your country in uniform, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Thank you again for this great honor to gather in this historic place today. Thank you for everything that you do each and every day for West Point, for the United States Army, for our armed services, and for the nation.

(Standing ovation.)

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, at this time Senator Larkin has requested that we open the resolution for sponsorship from all of the membership of the Senate. If for any reason there is someone who wishes not to be on the resolution, please let the desk know.

And, Mr. President, we're going to stand at ease for about two minutes so that members can shake hands and have a photograph taken with the cadets. And I know that they have something that they have to go to shortly.

So we're going to just stand at ease for about two minutes. I would ask members not to go far.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senate is at ease.

(Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease at 11:53 a.m.)

(Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at 11:57 a.m.)

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

May we please go back to the order of motions and resolutions.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Returning to motions and resolutions.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Mr. President, there's a privileged resolution at the desk by Senator Golden. Could we have its title read and move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative resolution by Senator Golden, honoring Antonio Pellegrini upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The question is on the resolution. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The

resolution is passed.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

There's a privileged resolution at the desk by Senator Hassell-Thompson. May we please have its title read, call on Senator Hassell-Thompson, and then we'll move for its immediate adoption.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Legislative resolution by Senator Hassell-Thompson, congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Carl Barchus, Sr., upon the occasion of celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Senator Hassell-Thompson.

SENATOR HASSELL-THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Just briefly.

The Barchus family are part of a tremendous history, lineage in that family, and 50 years of marriage is something that unfortunately we don't see happen too often today.

They have raised extraordinary children, and their son is the head of homeland security for our school district and does an extraordinary job and was the winner of the Joe Galiber Award this year during our Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Weekend.

And I thought it would be very fitting if we celebrated with them 50 years of what we believe are the family values of this state and of a family who has just proven to be extraordinary in their marriage, their relationship, their community service as well as that of their son.

So thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to speak. And thank you, Senator Libous, for allowing the speed with which this occurred.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Thank you, Senator Hassell-Thompson.

The question is on the resolution. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Any opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The resolution is passed.

Senator Libous.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I believe we can have the reading of the noncontroversial calendar at this time.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 207, by Senator DeFrancisco, Senate Print 2900, an act to amend the Military Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This act shall take effect on the 120th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 54.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 211, by Senator Ball, Senate Print 3957, an act to amend the Military Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the 30th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 54.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 233, by Member of the Assembly Gabryszak, Assembly Print Number 2411, an act to amend the General Municipal Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 54.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: The bill is passed.

Senator Libous, that completes the

reading of the noncontroversial calendar.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: There is none.

SENATOR LIBOUS: Thank you.

There being no further business at the desk, Mr. President, I move that the Senate adjourn until Monday, April 11th, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

ACTING PRESIDENT ROBACH: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, April 11th, at 3:00 p.m., intervening days being legislative days.

(Whereupon, at 12:02 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)